

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

PG: 87A-39
Inventory No. ~~87A-013~~

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Orme Farm Tobacco Barn

other Edelen Tobacco Barn

2. Location

18811

street and number ~~18903~~ Croom Road not for publication

city, town Brandywine vicinity

county Prince George's

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name ~~Thomas A. Edelen and~~ Julia A. & Clinton R. Edelen

street and number 18903 Croom Road & 18811 Croom Road telephone

city, town Brandywine state MD zip code 20613-8277

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 6723 / 2511 folio 641 / 646

city, town tax map 174C3 tax parcel 55 & 14 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary		Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Edelen Tobacco barn appears to have been constructed circa 1945. Positioned near the west side of Croom Road, the barn is sited on a grassy field in the middle of a slight rise. Mature trees are positioned to the north, west and south of the barn and an access path lies to the south.

The tobacco barn has concrete-block pier foundation that has been in-filled with concrete blocks. The wood frame structural system is clad in circular sawn vertical boards. The half gambrel, half shed roof is clad in sheets of standing-seam metal. Open overhanging eaves allow for greater air circulation under the roof of the barn and hinged vertical boards on the south and north elevations also open and close. Two sets of double-leaf wood vertical board doors are situated in the gable ends, one centrally placed and the other opening onto the shed roof section. Both the doors are large enough for machinery to enter the barn. Wood planks hold the hinged doors in place. The barn no longer appears to be in use.

Access was not granted to the interior.

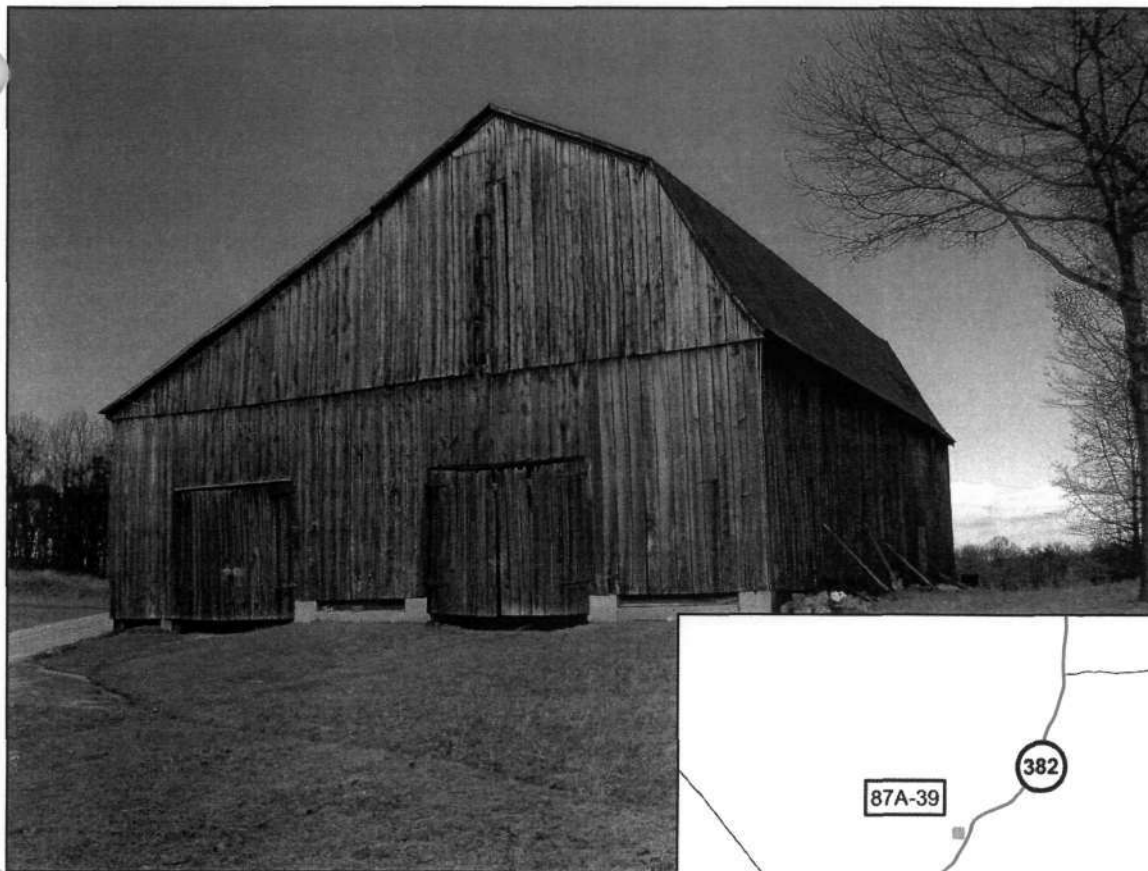
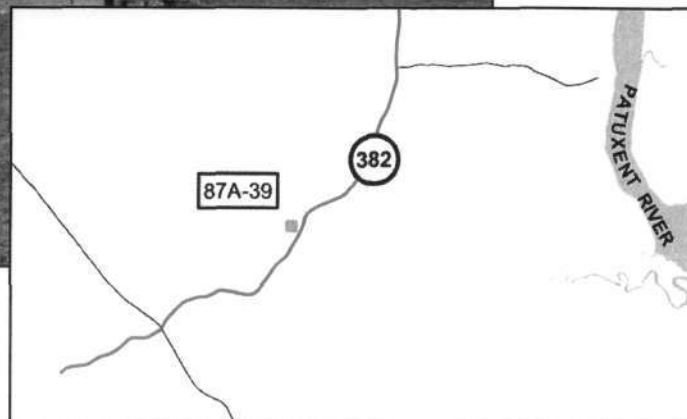


Figure 87A-39 also known as 87A-013.



8. Significance

Inventory No. 87A-013

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates ca. 1945

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates ca. 1945

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

During the more than two centuries in which tobacco served as the money crop in Prince George's County, planters, indentured servants, slaves, and farmers developed utilitarian structures for tobacco curing and packing that have remained essentially the same to the present day. Early barns were square in plan and constructed of notched logs with open spaces between the logs to permit the circulation of air (a log dwelling had chinking and caulking between the logs to prevent the infiltration of air). Inside, scaffolding held the tobacco sticks with the leaves suspended from them in such a way as to allow air to flow over the drying tobacco to prevent mold. Farmers employing the fire-curing method lit small fires on the barn's earthen floor to lower the relative humidity (Percy 1979:33). The Prince George's County barns differed from those constructed in Virginia and North Carolina for the flue curing of bright-leaf tobacco, which employed a stove or firebox with a flue and require a different type of barn—one that was essentially airtight to hold the heat. By the 19th century, the increasing availability of sawn lumber enabled southern Maryland's farmers to construct timber-frame tobacco barns covered with wooden siding, usually vertical board siding. Southern Maryland's air cured tobacco utilized barns constructed with air doors along the sides that could be opened to facilitate the circulation of air. These air doors were three or four vertical boards fastened together and usually hinged that could be opened.

The earliest tobacco barns identified in the survey along Croom Road are the ca. 1820 Duvall Tobacco Barn (87A-31) and the 1800-1830 Watson Tobacco Barn (87A-55) and the most recent barns date to the middle of the twentieth century such as the Stielper (87A-48), Jackson (87A-47), and Chase (87A-44) tobacco barns. Although the dates of construction for the surveyed barns range over one hundred and thirty years, the construction materials, methods of construction, and form of the tobacco barn changed very little. All of the barns surveyed are wood-frame and clad in vertical boards; all of the barns contain four-foot by four-foot rooms to hang the tobacco; and all of the barns have hinged vertical board air doors to control the circulation of air within the barns. The changes in form are very minor but provide the most insight into the date of construction. Early nineteenth century barns have steeply pitched gable roofs. From about 1830 until 1900 the barns have more standardized gable roofs, sometimes with one side of the gable extended to create a shed roof over a stripping room. Around 1900, the use of tractors increased in Prince George's County and central double-leaf doors opening onto a wide central passage began to appear in the barn. The final form change was the advent of the gambrel roof, which created more space within the barn to hang tobacco. Gambrel roofs begin to appear in the 1930s and 1940s.

This barn is significant as one of the few known examples of the half gambrel, half shed, roof type of tobacco barn and fits into the last period of tobacco barn construction. Asymmetrical gable roofed tobacco barns were commonly built in southern Maryland between 1830 and 1900. Gambrel roofs began to be constructed on tobacco barns in the 1940s. This barn appears to combine the vernacular asymmetrical roof tradition with the new gambrel roof form. The gambrel roof form quickly became popular as the additional space it created within the barn allowed for the curing of more tobacco. Based on the roof form and construction, this barn is believed to date to circa 1945.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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David O. Percy, *The Production of Tobacco Along the Colonial Potomac. The National Colonial Farm Research Report No. 1, Agricultural History Series* (Accokeek, Md.: The Accokeek Foundation, 1979), 10-11.]

National Register of Historic Places, Red Fox Farm, Mecklenburg Co., Va., File 58-131, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

Calvert County Historic District Commission, "Tobacco Barns Calvert County Maryland," Prince Frederick, Md: Calvert County Historic District Commission, 1991), brochure.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 36.4426

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale: Lower Marlboro

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Shafagoj		
organization	Ashley Neville, LLC	date	March 1, 2006
street & number	11311 Cedar Lane	telephone	804.798.2124
city or town	Glen Allen	state	VA

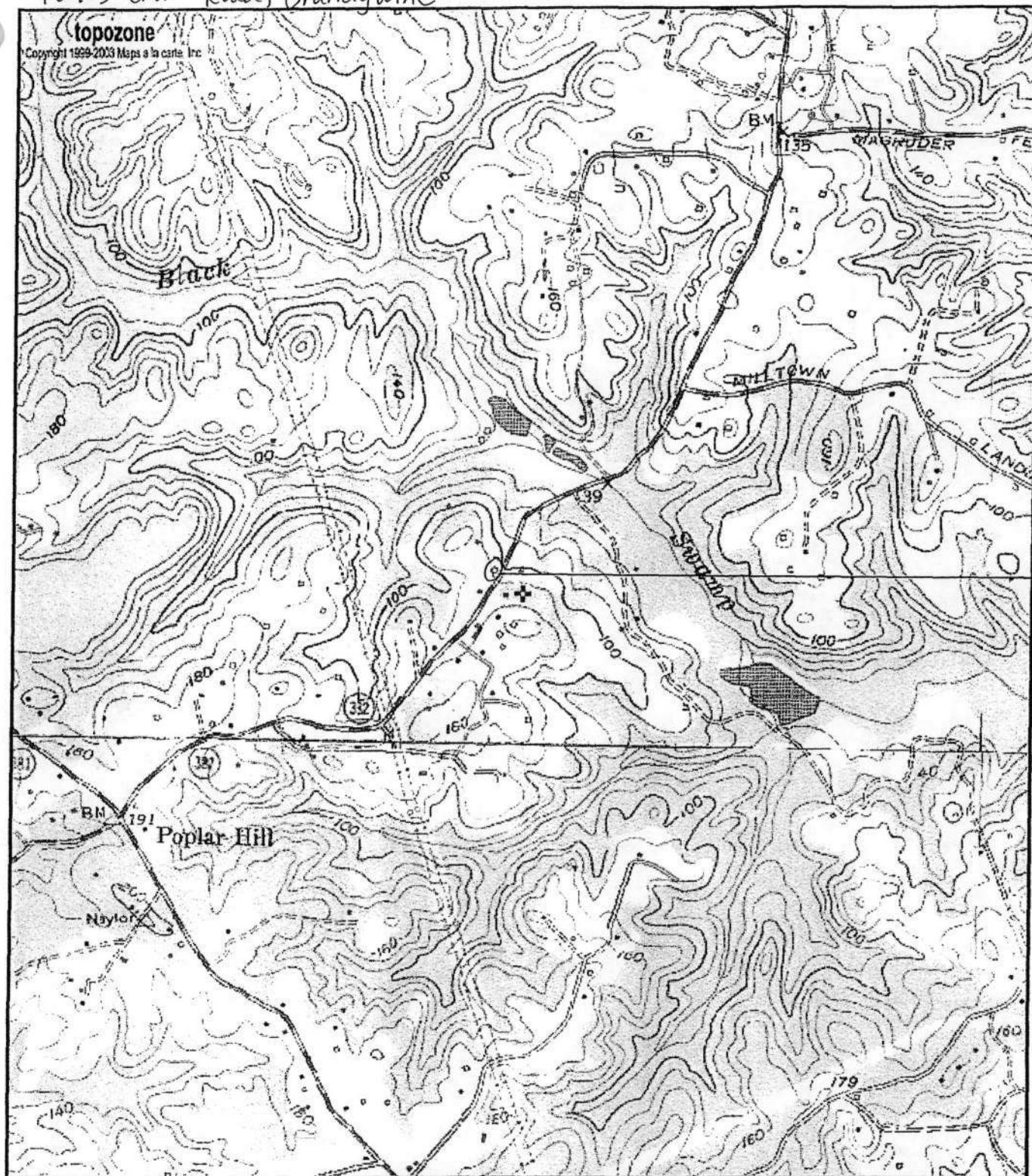
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Orme Farm Tobacco Barn / Edelen Tobacco Barn

~~1881~~
~~18903~~ Croom Road, Brandywine



PG:
87A-39

0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5 km
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 mi

UTM 18 349788E 4277087N (NAD83/WGS84)
USGS Lower Marlboro (MD) Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 18 NAD83 Datum



M=-10.97
G=-1.078